

# Record

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MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## Page talks prayer with President Bush

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — Prayer was the topic of conversation when the President of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) met with the President of the United States on October 11 in the Oval Office of The White House in Washington, D.C.

Other issues were also on the agenda when President Bush welcomed SBC President Frank Page, his wife Dayle, and SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman to the Oval Office, but the day's other news events — including an hour-long presidential news conference and a plane crash into a New York City high-rise building — reduced what was supposed to be a 45-minute meeting to 20 minutes.

Page said he had planned to discuss some moral issues with the President but, "I did not have time for that. ...[I]n fact, [Bush] had requested that we speak about several issues."

In the short time they had, however, prayer received most of the attention. The meeting "primarily focused on prayer, on what prayer means to him" and how it undergirds and strengthens him, Page said.

"I assured him of Southern Baptists' support of him, particularly in our prayer support," said Page, pastor of First Church in Taylors, S.C.

Page told Bush "perhaps the message that I've heard more than anything else" about the



PRESIDENT-TO-PRESIDENT — U.S. President George W. Bush (left) meets October 11 in The White House's Oval Office in Washington, D.C., with Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman (second from left), SBC President Frank Page (second from right) and Page's wife Dayle. (BP photo courtesy of the White House)

president from Southern Baptists "was that we pray for the President and Mrs. Bush" every day, especially for "wisdom, strength, and endurance."

Chapman, a native of Kosciusko and graduate of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, said in a state-

ment to Baptist Press that the President "expressed his deep and sincere appreciation for the prayers of Southern Baptists."

Page said he told the President that Southern Baptists feel strongly connected to him "because of our soul connection, because we believe we have a man [in the White House] who knows Christ and is not afraid to talk" about his Christian faith.

"He seemed delighted to hear that," Page said.

The President also talked about evil and terrorism during their meeting, Page and Chapman said. He "spoke briefly about the truth of the reality of evil" in the world and about the violence that sometimes is carried out in the name of religion, Page said.

"The President spoke of his resolve to defeat terrorism wherever it threatens to disrupt peace and security in the world and to spread democracy around the globe," Chapman said.

Chapman noted the President's optimism, adding that Bush "spoke of his everyday reliance upon the guidance of God's Spirit and the importance of faith in his life and leadership."

Bush pointed out to his guests that the presidential seal on the rug in the Oval Office

was designed to convey optimism, Chapman said.

"[The President] stated that in his opinion, 'Optimism is a necessary characteristic of every successful leader,'" Chapman said. "He asked, almost parenthetically, why people would want to follow a pessimist who always dwells upon the negatives rather than upon the positives that can be seen through the lens of optimism and faith."

Page, who was elected SBC President in June in a three-way race during the convention's annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C., acknowledged that all Southern Baptists do not agree with the President on some issues — but by praying for him they are praying "as Scripture commands."

Page said he encouraged Bush "to consider strongly speaking to us in person" at next year's convention in San Antonio. Bush has previously addressed the convention's annual meetings via satellite. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice spoke at the 2006 SBC annual meeting in Greensboro.

At Bush's request, Page prayed at the close of the Oval Office meeting for the president, his wife, and the cause of freedom.

## Motion to amend Plan of Organization and Action

Article XXIII of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) Plan of Organization and Action states that the Plan may be amended in the same way as the MBC Constitution. Article VII, Section 2, of the MBC Constitution mandates that proposed amendments be published in The Baptist Record. To fulfill that requirement, The Baptist Record offers publication of the following motion made at the 2005 annual session which would require amendment of the MBC Plan of Organization and Action and which will be brought before messengers to the 2006 annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. By this publication, no endorsement or opposition is implied by either The Baptist Record or the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The grayed areas represent the changes being proposed.

### Article XI, The Mississippi Baptist Foundation

Current: Section 1 — The Convention shall elect a Mississippi Baptist Foundation (hereinafter referred to as the Foundation) of nine trustees; these trustees shall be elected as provided by the charter of the Foundation and relevant articles of this Plan of Organization and Action in the manner prescribed by the Bylaws of the Convention.

Proposed: Section 1 — The Convention shall elect a Mississippi Baptist Foundation (hereinafter referred to as the Foundation) of at least nine trustees but not more than eighteen members; these trustees shall be elected as provided by the charter of the Foundation and relevant articles of this Plan of Organization and Action in the manner prescribed by the Bylaws of the Convention.



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# Proposed 2007 Cooperative Program Budget

	2006 Budget	2007 Budget	% of Total	\$ INCR/DECR	% Incr/Decr
<b>Southern Baptist Convention</b>					
Southern Baptist Convention Budget Formula:					
GuideStone	84,549	89,610	0.27%	5,061	5.99%
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	162,835	172,582	0.52%	9,747	5.99%
International Mission Board	5,480,036	5,808,064	17.50%	328,028	5.99%
North American Mission Board	2,498,896	2,648,477	7.98%	149,581	5.99%
SBC Operating	363,248	384,992	1.16%	21,744	5.99%
SBC Seminaries	2,370,507	2,512,402	7.57%	141,895	5.99%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,968,071</b>	<b>11,616,127</b>	<b>35.00%</b>	<b>656,056</b>	<b>5.99%</b>
<b>Shared Responsibilities - MBC Matching Portion</b>					
Church Annuity	945,684	984,000	2.97%	38,316	4.05%
<b>Total</b>	<b>945,684</b>	<b>984,000</b>	<b>2.97%</b>	<b>38,316</b>	<b>4.05%</b>
<b>Mississippi Institutions and Agencies</b>					
Baptist Children's Village	549,218	623,158	1.88%	73,940	13.46%
Board of Ministerial Education	380,444	380,444	1.15%	0	0.00%
Christian Action Commission	328,259	353,035	1.06%	24,776	7.55%
Christian Education	5,327,287	5,646,391	17.01%	319,104	5.99%
Christian Education Capital Needs	676,211	716,716	2.16%	40,505	5.99%
Historical Commission	61,108	67,478	0.20%	6,370	10.42%
Mississippi Baptist Foundation	416,311	435,045	1.31%	18,734	4.50%
Mississippi Baptist Health Systems					
Baptist Memorial Health Systems (1/3 owned by MS)					
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,738,838</b>	<b>8,222,268</b>	<b>24.77%</b>	<b>483,430</b>	<b>6.25%</b>
<b>Mississippi Baptist Convention Board</b>					
Baptist Record	569,086	602,608	1.82%	33,522	5.89%
Church & Community Impact	188,210	182,681	0.55%	(5,529)	(2.94%)
Church Growth	415,422	405,747	1.22%	(9,675)	(2.33%)
Church Music	464,732	489,006	1.47%	24,274	5.22%
Church Planting	500,460	519,328	1.56%	18,868	3.77%
Church-Ministry Relations	277,260	296,022	0.89%	18,762	6.77%
Collegiate Ministry	1,717,076	1,794,675	5.41%	77,599	4.52%
Communication Services	442,959	458,421	1.38%	15,462	3.49%
Computer Information Services	256,883	273,853	0.83%	16,970	6.61%
Convention & Convention Committees	110,425	111,529	0.34%	1,104	1.00%
Discipleship & Family Ministry	698,201	717,955	2.16%	19,754	2.83%
Evangelism	261,276	271,262	0.82%	9,986	3.82%
Executive Administration	439,416	461,306	1.39%	21,890	4.98%
Conferencing	250,000	299,797	0.90%	49,797	19.92%
Men's Ministry	610,982	664,069	2.00%	53,087	8.69%
Missions Mobilization	494,712	543,579	1.64%	48,867	9.88%
Mission Strategy	510,415	460,005	1.39%	(50,410)	(9.88%)
Pastor/Leadership Development	351,037	365,754	1.10%	14,717	4.19%
Resource Services/Financial Services	746,892	769,995	2.32%	23,103	3.09%
Stewardship	262,004	270,442	0.82%	8,438	3.22%
Sunday School	595,229	674,569	2.03%	79,340	13.33%
Synergized Relationships / Teams	78,900	77,750	0.23%	(1,150)	(1.46%)
Woman's Missionary Union	879,642	931,186	2.81%	51,544	5.86%
Capital Needs	548,679	725,000	2.18%	176,321	32.14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,649,898</b>	<b>12,366,539</b>	<b>37.26%</b>	<b>696,641</b>	<b>5.97%</b>
<b>Total Cooperative Program Budget</b>	<b>31,314,491</b>	<b>33,188,934</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>1,874,443</b>	<b>5.99%</b>
<b>Challenge Portion Percentages:</b>					
Christian Education	50%	50%			
Disaster Relief	50%	50%			
Southern Baptist Missions	0%	30%			
New Church Starts in MS	0%	20%			

## Why should we give through the Cooperative Program (CP)?

The answer has to do with Jesus' command in Acts 1:8. He expects us to do missions locally and to the ends of the earth. The question is not whether to do missions. The challenge is to be obedient to His call.

It has been my privilege to serve as chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Cooperative Program Budget Committee this year, and to see this challenge being met through the Cooperative Program giving of Mississippi Baptists.

Much prayer and study has gone into the budgeting process for 2007. Last year, we held the line on the 2006 budget and kept it the same as 2005 because of the uncertainty related to Hurricane Katrina.

The proposed 2007 Mississippi Baptist Cooperative Program Budget to be presented to messengers at the 2006 annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention October 31-November 1 at First Church, Jackson, is \$33,188,934 — an increase of \$1,874,443, or 5.99%, over our current budget.

As proposed, the 2007 budget allocates funding at the following levels:

- Southern Baptist Convention: \$11,616,127, or 35% of the proposed budget, an increase of \$656,056, or 5.99% over this year's budget.

## GUEST OPINION:



## Why give to CP?

By Scott Wiggers, chairman  
CP Budget Committee

- Agencies and Institutions (Christian education and benevolent institutions): \$8,222,268, or 24.77% of the proposed budget, an increase of \$483,430, or 6.25%, over this year's budget.

The budget committee is pleased to be able to recommend the amount each agency/institution requested for their ministry.

- Shared Responsibility (Church Annuity Plan): \$984,000, or 2.97% of the proposed budget, an increase of \$38,316, or 4.05%, over this year's budget.

In 2007, GuideStone will be requiring state conventions to choose between various funding options. The budgeted amount will maintain the plan at the current level for all Mississippi participants.

- Mississippi Baptist Convention Board: \$12,366,539, or 37.26% of the proposed budget, an increase of \$696,641, or 5.97%, over this year's budget.

Each year there are changes as Mississippi Baptist Convention Board program ministries are adapted to meet the changing needs of our churches and associations. Highlighted below are some of the mission and ministry causes with proposed changes.

- Sunday School increased \$79,340, or 13%, due to the transfer of a position from Mission Strategy. The Mission Strategy budget mirrors this change with a reduction of \$50,410, or 10%.

- There is a \$176,321, or 32%, increase in Capital Needs. This results from various maintenance and furnishing needs at the facilities around the state. The Convention owns property in Jackson, at our camps, and at our Baptist Student Union centers across the state. Capital Needs allocations have been reduced in recent years because of budget restraints.

- Not only is the Church Planting Department receiving an \$18,868, or four percent increase, our proposal for any 2007 Challenge funds also includes 20% for New Church Starts.

- Through September 30, Mississippi Cooperative Program receipts totaled \$2,429,935 above budget. Should the 2006 budget be exceeded, the additional dollars will be portioned 50% to Disaster Relief and 50% to Christian Education. Should the proposed 2007 budget be exceeded, 50% of the additional dollars will go to Christian Education, 30% to Southern Baptist Missions, and 20% to New Church Starts.

We believe the proposed 2007 Mississippi Cooperative Program Budget provides an equitable, God-honoring distribution of projected Cooperative Program funds between all causes supported by Mississippi Baptists. The budget will be presented during the Convention Business session on the afternoon of October 31, with discussion and a vote by messengers scheduled for the business session on the morning of November 1.

On behalf of the budget committee, I invite your attendance and participation.

Wiggers is a member of First Church, Kosciusko, and President/Chief Operating Officer of M&F Bank.

# Baptist church mourns with Amish neighbors

WRIGHTSDALE, Pa. (BP) — A Baptist church situated in the center of Pennsylvania Amish country moved ahead with celebrating the start of construction of a new worship center on October 9 — sobered, however, by the murder of five young Amish girls by a madman in a one-room school 21 miles away.

"Life has to go on," Dave Pope, pastor of Wrightsdales Church, said. "We are all still mourning this in our own way. It is so recent and happened so close," he said, shaking his head as he unlocked the doors and entered the church at daybreak on Sunday.

"We have a program to keep to, with a four-day revival starting today and the celebration of the new construction planned this morning," Pope said, as he climbed a flight of steps and turned the lights on in the sanctuary. "You know, maybe in some way, having all this to do is a good thing. Maybe that will help keep our minds off the tragedy and instead concentrate on the future."

The sermon this Sunday, by North Carolina-based evangelist Royce Williams, appropriately dealt with how Christ calls Christians to deepen their faith and trust in Him in good times and bad.

Wrightsdales Church, the oldest Southern Baptist church in Pennsylvania, is nestled amid several large Amish dairy farms some 20 miles south of Lancaster in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Despite the festivities scheduled for the day, various Wrightsdales Church members clutched tissues and fought back their tears.

Kelli Brandenberger, who grew up in the area, wiped tears from her eyes while eating a piece of cake at the celebration of the church's new construction project.

"I fear that this sort of thing could happen to our children. This whole thing scares me," she confided as her two chil-

dren, ages four and five, played with their father in the church gymnasium.

"I thank God the shooter did not have time to carry out all of his plans," Brandenberger said, shivering a bit as she contemplated the thought. According to various news reports, authorities believed the killer intended to sexually molest the girls in the tiny Nickel Mines community but was thwarted when police arrived at the schoolhouse shortly after teachers and male students were allowed by the gunman to flee the building.

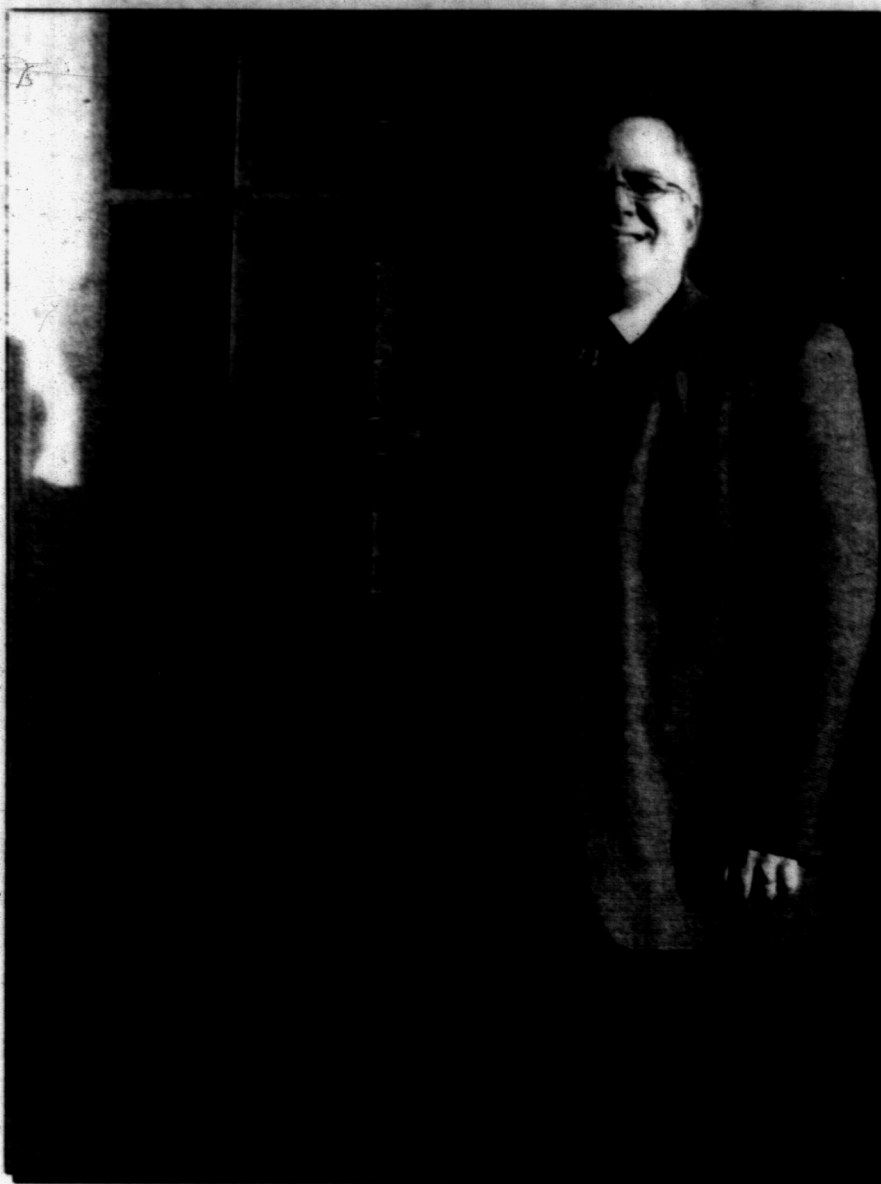
The killer, milk truck driver Charles Carl Roberts IV, indicated in suicide notes and a cell phone call to his wife from the school that he was angry at God over the death several years ago of a daughter who died minutes after she was born, and troubled by recollections that he had molested two young relatives decades ago.

Brandenberger's concern was shared by many in the congregation. Several members said they still have not been able to absorb how such a violent act was perpetrated in this rural farm setting of rolling hills where news of murders and mayhem usually are distant reports from major cities.

"This just doesn't happen here," John Hardy said as he stood on the front steps of the church and watched an Amish buggy pass by, the horse's hooves pounding a rhythmic clip-clop on the road. "This sort of thing tries your faith, it really does, but hopefully in the end it also drives you closer to Jesus."

Several Wrightsdales Church members agreed that the killings were having the same effect. Roberts, who delivered milk to the families of those he killed, shot 10 girls ages six to 13, killing five of them and then committing suicide as police arrived.

"The Amish are such peaceful people. They don't harm anyone," Wrightsdales Church deacon chairman Keith Brown



**WORKING THROUGH SORROW** — Pastor Dave Pope of Wrightsdales Church in the heart of Pennsylvania Amish country said the congregation of his church joins the Amish community in mourning the murder of five Amish schoolgirls, yet is trying to have a positive view of the future. (BP photo by Daniel W. Guido)

said. "For this to happen to them really makes you think about the frailty of life."

Brown and other parishioners expressed amazement that the families of the slain and wounded Amish children already had reached out to Roberts' family to let them know they do not blame them for what happened. Roberts left behind his wife and three children.

Former Wrightsdales Church pastor Terry Douglas, on hand

Sunday to help celebrate the start of construction, said that "the public as a whole, here and all around the world, learned a lot from the Amish in the area of forgiveness this week."

Douglas said the grandfather of one of the little girls killed visited the shooter's family the next morning to pray with them and let them know the Amish community was not holding a grudge and would not seek revenge.

## San Diego tapped

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — The North American Mission Board (NAMB) has named San Diego as the next Strategic Focus City (SFC) — an initiative that will bring additional Southern Baptist attention, volunteers and resources in an all-out effort to share the Gospel of Christ with metro San Diego's three million residents. NAMB's Strategic Focus Cities is a six-year-old strategy for leveraging the resources of the Southern Baptist Convention's 16.3 million members and 43,000-plus churches to win America's top 11 metropolitan areas for Christ. While preliminary work already has started, 2007 will be the planning year for the San Diego outreach, with full implementation in 2008-09. San Diego, the seventh largest city in the U.S., was named as a Strategic Focus City because it is a largely unchurched mission field, said John Yarbrough, NAMB vice president for strategic initiatives. "Only 15% of metro San Diego's 3 million people attend church regularly," Yarbrough said. "We also chose San Diego because of its existing strengths. The major advantage of metro San Diego is its being home to many strong and dynamic Southern Baptist churches." San Diego joins Phoenix, Chicago, Las Vegas, Boston, Seattle, Philadelphia, New York City, Miami, Cleveland, and Baltimore as NAMB-designated Strategic Focus Cities.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Stewardship Department will design and coordinate the fundraising campaign for the \$1.2 million adult lodge planned at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, according to building committee chairman Dell Scoper of Laurel.

### 20 years ago

The three-year-old Sunday School class at McDowell Road Church in Jackson sees for themselves the miracle of God's natural world when their single tiny sweet potato seed, planted outside the church, grows to more than 60 feet in length.

### 60 years ago

After years of hard work, Mississippi Baptist Hospital in Jackson dedicates a new 100-bed, air-conditioned addition and surgical wing — completed despite continuous shortages of building materials during and since the end of WWII.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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#### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer  
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my  
sins and freedom from eternal  
death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose  
from the grave to forgive my  
sins and to restore my rela-  
tionship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus  
Christ into my life. From this  
time on, I want to live in a lov-  
ing relationship with Him. (I  
receive Christ as my Savior  
and Lord.)

"But as many as received him,  
to them he gave the right to become  
children of God, even to those who  
believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for  
Jesus Christ today, contact a  
local Baptist church for spiritu-  
al guidance.

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#### WEIGHTY ISSUES

The report came out the third week in August 2006. Bless our hearts we are number one again in Mississippi. We may be 49 or 50 in a lot of categories but when it comes to weight you do not have to wait and see; you can just look at your waist and see the weight. The study showed that Mississippi leads the nation in obesity. Almost a third of the adults in our state are obese. The problem is not just the weight. The bigger problem is what the weight is doing to us and the complications that are brought on by our overeating, under-exercising, and overindulging. When you stop and think about all of the diseases that are either brought on or complicated by weight, the medical and health related issues are staggering. Just look at the list of obesity related diseases: Type II Diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, heart attack, heart failure, cancer, gall stones, gout, Osteoarthritis, sleep apnea, and even more that are being studied and investigated. For many of us the biggest problem about this problem is that there is no easy solution. There is no silver bullet or power-packed pill that takes off 10 pounds a day, and no guaranteed cure. If and when you take steps to get control of your weight, put into place good eating and exercise habits, and have some understanding of good nutrition in your daily menu, you will have to do it all over again tomorrow, the next day, and the next.

When you think about that, rather than getting depressed, realize that God in His wonderful mercy and grace only gives us one day at a time. You do not have to reach out and struggle with tomorrow's issues. Just ask God to help you today. In fact, we are not a part of some 12-step program, but a part of Jesus' instructions to us in Matthew 6:34: "Take no thought for tomorrow, for tomorrow shall take thought of the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." In one way Jesus was saying what old folks used to say, "Don't borrow troubles from tomorrow." Clearly, Jesus is teaching us to not weigh ourselves down today with the problems that may not even



Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

appear tomorrow. Today you can face today and find some success and some hope in the disciplines of your life.

So what can we do here in Mississippi that maybe can make a difference in not only the quantity of life but also the quality of life for many of our folks? Our Governor, recognizing the difficulties that many people are having, is encouraging folks to give attention to losing weight and has presented himself to be an example of weight loss and good health. That is a good thing, but he needs all of us to join with him. The people of God need to be healthy. We can do more work, better work, and be more contented in our labors if we are serving with an efficient machine — a healthy body. This is not the answer-all to make Mississippi go from first to fiftieth, but let me offer you some encouragement with these three steps that might help.

**Step one is inspiration.** For many of you who read this article, you genuinely want to walk with God, serve the Lord, and have a full and meaningful life. That can best be accomplished if you take those steps that will enhance, restore, and refurbish the temple of God. The temple according to the New Testament is your body. Paul writes in I Corinthians 3:17, "If any man defiles the temple of God, him shall God destroy for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." Then in I Corinthians 6:19 he says, "What know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own."

I have watched as slowly but surely, one by one, people across the coast have been involved in the enormous restoration process of businesses, homes, and churches. It is hard work. It

## Directi

is long-term work, and the temple of God, the body, deserves no less attention or treatment than the restoration that may be happening across South Mississippi. All of that is to say that for many people it is a spiritual experience. For me personally I will never forget stepping up on a scale with nobody around at a time when I was 60 to 75 pounds overweight, and thinking this is not right. Quietly I asked the Lord to help me to put into place new habits and to help me stay away from old habits so that my body would have opportunity to be the best it could be for the Lord's work. Through the years it has changed the way I view food, exercise, and maintaining good health. It has transformed all of those things into dimensions of spiritual experiences.

**The second step is initiation.** The only way to turn things around is to start. Now is the time and not next week after a binge or at the end of the year after packing on an extra 10 pounds. Start now and put into place some things that will make a difference. In a sense you will have to start again tomorrow, but that is okay. You will start again the next day. As you put into place things that will make a difference, you will find that after several days they do make a difference. Initiation of the process is a continuing initiation.

**My last step is information.** When I say information, you can get almost any kind of diet that you may want. I checked diets on my computer and it said there were over 36 million websites with diets and dieting information. I gained weight from looking at all of the websites. There is plenty of information out there but the balance of what needs to be done is related to intake and output. The disclaimers always say to check with your doctor before starting all of these things, and that is absolutely correct. If most of us just slightly increased our daily activities of walking and working and added to it cutting back calories, we would see a difference. We could probably eat half of what we normally do and still have a healthy, wholesome diet. If weight and all of its related problems and diseases are burdening and burying Americans, it is doing it in Mississippi to an even greater degree. The amazing thing is that we can do something about it.

If you know of people who are struggling with weight and weight-related health issues, pray for them. If you don't have any of the problems and don't understand, pray that God will give you understanding. If you, like most of us, battle the problem and have somewhat of a handle on it, share your encouragement with others. God bless you as piece by piece and day by day you work on the restoration of His temple.

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Sat., October 28th begins at 4 p.m. Sun., October 29th begins at 4 p.m.  
Mon., October 30th begins at 6 p.m. Tues., October 31st begins at 6 p.m.

\$1 donation per person is requested.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



3. Bynum and Glass Ordained to Ministry, Star Church, Star

1. Ephesus Church, Forest, will present Judgment House Oct. 27-29. Fri.-Sat., 6-10 p.m.; Sun., 3-8 p.m. Reservations recommended for groups; walk-ins welcome. Reservations at (601) 469-1731 or jimeverett@ephesus-baptist.org.
2. Area 8 GA Madness will be held Nov. 4 at First Church, Ellisville, 9-3 p.m. The theme is World Crafts. GAs are asked to bring a sack lunch and \$3 for program

materials; drinks provided. Registration deadline is Oct. 20. For information, call (601) 297-9777 or 794-8826.

3. Star Church, Star, ordained Buddy Bynum and Ronald Glass to the ministry Sept. 24. Shown are pastor Vic Bowman, Bynum, Glass, and Gary Glass.



## OBITUARY



Blackwell

**Billy Ray Blackwell**, 66, died at his home in Waynesboro Sept. 8, with internment in the Billy Ray Blackwell Memorial Garden on the Blackwell farm.

He was pastor of Water Oak Church, Wayne Association, and had served as pastor in Washington County, Ala., Green, Perry, Clark, and Wayne Counties in Mississippi for 37 years. He was also a teacher and administrator in public education for more than 25 years and a dedicated farmer. Survivors include his wife, Ruby I. Blackwell; two sons, Timothy and Maxine Blackwell and Thomas and Barbara Blackwell; two daughters, Rhonda and John Farrior and Robyn and Mark McMichael, all from Waynesboro; one step-grandson, one granddaughter, and five grandsons.



4. Morris

- leader in Florida and Kentucky for Passport Youth Camps. Shown are Blackburn and pastor Dustin Stockstill.
2. Cleary Church, Florence, has called Kevin Wade as associate pastor to students/activities. He is a graduate of Bellhaven College and previously served as youth minister at Mt. Zion Church, Florence. He comes with his wife Jessica and children, Gabbie and Bella.
3. Calvary Church, Silver Creek, has called Tim Robertson as pastor effective Oct. 16. Robertson comes with his wife, Glenda.
4. Tangipahoa Church, Summit, has called Mike Morris as pastor effective Oct. 15.

1. Blackburn, Fellowship Church, Starkville

1. Fellowship Church, Starkville, has called Forrest Blackburn as minister of music. Blackburn is a student at Mississippi State University and has served in a host of positions, including serving as a summer missionary intern in Ecuador and a Bible study

## STATE CHANGES



## Bibliocipher

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DRIU WLK C YLEERWXUX  
KDUU? SU GKHLWZ RWX  
LV R ZLLX YLJHRZU; SU  
WLK RVHRCX, WUÇDUH  
SU KDLJ XCGERBUX; VLH  
KDU ALHX KDB ZLX CG  
MCKD KDUU MDCK-  
DUHGLUIUH KDLJ  
ZLUGK.

FLGDJR LWU: WCWU

D = H

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Exodus Twenty-Two: Twenty.

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## William Carey University

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## Centennial Appreciation Reception

in the Chapel Dining Room  
First Baptist Church-Jackson  
on Tuesday, October 31, 2006  
4:30-6:30 p.m.

William Carey University  
is hosting the reception  
to express our appreciation to  
Mississippi Baptists for their 100 years  
of support, prayers and encouragement.

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

**Cairo Church, Ecru:** Revival, Oct. 21-25; 7 p.m. nightly; Sat. concert, 6 p.m.; Billy Dowdy, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music; William Dowdy, pastor.

**Calvary Church, Petal:** One-day revival, Oct. 22; services, 9:45 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Moody Adams, speaker.

**Cumberland Church, Maben:** Sesquicentennial Celebration, Oct. 29. Services, 10:30 a.m.; Mitchell Ferguson, speaker.

**First Church, Lauderdale:** Homecoming, Nov. 12; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon; Bob Simmons, interim pastor, speaker; Tom Harrison, music.

**Lakeland Church, Mantachie:** Homecoming and revival, Oct. 29-Nov. 1; Sun., Sunday School 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish harvest luncheon, and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Michael Todd, speaker; Paul Reed, music.

**Maybank Church, Hattiesburg:** Homecoming and

revival, Oct. 29-Nov. 3; Sun., Sunday School, 8:45 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Scott Murphy, speaker; Jerry Purvis, music; Jon Kittrell, pastor.

**Providence Church, Hattiesburg:** Revival, Oct. 29-31; Sun., 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Tues., 7 p.m.; Henry Linginfelter, speaker.

**Providence Church, Jayess:** Revival, Oct. 22-25; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Keith Fordham, speaker; Price Harris, music; Ron Satterwhite, pastor.

**Pioneer Church, Woodville:** Revival, Oct. 22-25; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Pender, speaker; Bruce Collier, music; Kevin Dixon, pastor.

**Ramah Church, McCall Creek:** Revival, Oct. 22-25; Sun., 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James Hunsucker, speaker; Roy and Pat Doughty, music.

**Terry's Creek Church, Magnolia:** Homecoming, Oct. 29; services at 9:45 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon service.

## MS POSITIONS

**NEEDED: CHURCH CHILD CARE DIRECTOR.** Send resume to the following address: search committee, 302 Lindale Circle, Clinton, MS 39056.

**POCAHONTAS BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a part-time youth pastor. Send resumes to Pocahontas Baptist Church, 4200 Kickapoo Road, Jackson, MS 39209 or call (601) 982-2305.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, HICKORY FLAT, MISS.,** is looking for a bi-vocational minister of music. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, attn: minister of music search committee, P. O. Box 98, Hickory Flat, MS 38633.

**NORTHCREST, MERIDIAN MISS., ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A MINISTER OF YOUTH.** Send to Northcrest Baptist Church, P.O. Box 3159, Meridian, MS 39303.

**HARRISBURG BAPTIST CHURCH, TUPELO, MISS.,** seeks a full-time Director of childhood education. Prefer seminary-trained with large church Sunday School and children's worship experience. Send resumes to Gary Waters, 506 Lake Park Drive, Tupelo, MS 38801.

**EAST PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH\* IN PHILADELPHIA, MISS.,** is seeking a student/youth minister. Seminary degree preferred. If interested, please send resume to mcheatham@choctaw.org or call Mark Cheatham at (601) 650-9271.

**EPHESUS BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH AND RECREATION.** Job requires working with youth and children and Scheduling Family-life Center events: Send resume to Dr. Jim Everett, 3495 Ephesus Road, Forest MS 39074 or Email: jiminceb@earthlink.net.

**MURPHY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, LOUISVILLE, MISS.,** is seeking a part-time youth director. Please send resume and references to Murphy Creek Baptist Church, Attn: Youth Director Search Committee, 5420 Bond Rd., Louisville, MS 39339.

**PARKWAY BAPTIST, HERNANDO, MISS.,** seeking a full-time Minister of Education and part-time Minister of Music. We need spiritually-mature and motivated team members. Parkway is growing with unlimited potential. If the Lord leads you, contact the Personnel Committee: 50 N. Parkway, Hernando, MS 38632. Or fax (662) 429-6076, email bailey\_pbc@yahoo.com.

**BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH, NEWTON COUNTY, MS,** is seeking a Bi-Vocational Youth Minister. Please send resume's to Beulah Baptist Church, 12954 Hickory Little Rock Rd., Decatur, MS 39327.

**HICKORY RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH, FLORENCE, MISS.,** is seeking a bivocational music minister. Please send resumes to attn: search committee, 203 Ridge Park Cove North, Raymond, MS 39154 or email dertle@jam.rr.com.

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## COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS



1. Courtney and Yount, MC



1. Courtney and VanHorn, MC



2. Newly elected BSU executive committee

1. Joseph Yount, senior Christian Studies major, received the Hardy Denham Scholarship, and Nathan VanHorn, senior Christian Studies major, received the Carpenter Gandy Scholarship, both of which are awarded annually by the Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Ruthie Courtney, secretary of the Board of Ministerial Education, presented the award at the CRV Banquet at Mississippi College.

2. Newly elected Baptist Student Union Executive Committee members are Lauren Herrington, Mississippi College; president Racheal Batton, University of Mississippi; Kerrie Reddoch, Jones Junior College; Emily Smith, Mississippi State; and vice president Earl Bell.

3. William Carey University will host a Centennial Appreciation Reception Oct. 31 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the Chapel Dining Room on the ground floor of First Church, Jackson, during the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The reception is being held to express WCU's appreciation to Mississippi Baptists for their 100 years of support, prayers and encouragement. For more information about the reception call (601) 318-6192.

4. The Mississippi College Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy sponsored its Annual Seminary Day October 9. MC students had the privilege of visiting with representatives and receiving information from them. The following nine seminaries and divinity schools were represented:

Beeson Divinity School, Samford University  
Duke Divinity School  
Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary  
Mid-American Baptist Theological Seminary  
Mid-Western Baptist Theological Seminary  
McAlfee School of Theology, Mercer University  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
School of Divinity, Gardner Webb University  
Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University

5. Jeremy Owens, instructor of music in the Department of Fine Arts and Speech, Blue Mountain College, was selected as the 2006 Humanities Teacher Award recipient. He will present a lecture and piano presentation on the works of Beethoven Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m., at BMC's Garret Hall Auditorium. For more information, call (662) 685-4771, ext. 134.

6. 2006 Fall Preview Day at Mississippi College is scheduled for Nov. 11 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Reservations to attend should be made by Nov. 3, by contacting the Office of Enrollment Services at (800) 738-1236 or admissions@mc.edu. Additional information can also be found on line at www.admissions.mc.edu.

7. New Orleans Seminary is having its annual luncheon during the Mississippi Baptist Convention Oct. 31, noon, at First Church, Jackson. Steve Lemke, Provost of the Seminary, will be speaking. Tickets are \$10; see Becky Brown at the seminary booth to purchase tickets. For more information, call (601) 885-8448.

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**MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND PRESCHOOL:** Tuscaloosa, Alabama area church is accepting resumes for the full-time position of Minister of Children and Preschool. Please send resumes to: Five Points Baptist Church, ATTN: Personnel Committee, 3718 36th Street, Northport, AL 35473 or email to 5pointspastor@comcast.net.

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**PLEASANT RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH,** in one of the fastest growing areas of the US, is accepting resumes for a worship/music minister and a youth minister. Please mail resumes to search committee at PRBC, 1015 Pleasant Ridge Road, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435 or fax (850) 892-9181 or email prbc1889@defuniak.com.

**SEARCHING FOR FORMER MEMBERS.** LaPlace Baptist Church, LaPlace, Louisiana, to attend 50th ANNIVERSARY AND HOMECOMING, Jan. 27-28, 2007. Please contact us for further info and reservations at (985) 652-6219 or e-mail [www.fbclaplace.org](mailto:www.fbclaplace.org). RESERVATION DEADLINE Nov. 15. Get more from the Web. FREE MSN Explorer download: <http://explorer.msn.com>.

**FULL-TIME HIGH SCHOOL MINISTER:** First Baptist Church, Trussville, Alabama, accepting resumes for full-time minister to ninth through twelfth grade. Mail or e-mail resumes to P.O. Box 27, Trussville, AL 35173. Attn: Student Minister or john@fbctrussville.org.

**THE WYOMING SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION** is searching for a person to serve as Church Mission Strategist. To receive a copy of the complete ministry description or submit a resume, please contact: Pam Hans, WSBC Administrative Assistant, 3925 Casper Mountain Road, Casper, WY 82601; (307) 472-4087, hans@wyomingsbc.org.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ZACHARY,** Louisiana is accepting resumes for a Full-time children's minister. Please send resumes to Children's Minister Search Committee, 4200 Main St., Zachary, LA 70791 or email rbridges@fbcz.org.

## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Take Hold of Usefulness

2 Timothy 2:14-26

By Arthur Story

To my knowledge no one has ever set out to live a life that didn't matter. Each of us wants our life to make a difference. Each of us longs to live a life that makes a significant impact not just in our lifetime but beyond.

Athletes want to make an impact in their sport the way Muhammad Ali did in boxing. Business men want to make an impact like W. Edwards Deming did by improving production in the United States during WW II and then in Japan from 1950 onward. Innovators want to make an impact like Steve Jobs, co-founder of Pixar Animation Studios, has in animation. The list of examples could go on endlessly.

Each follower of Christ has the desire to make a kingdom

impact germinating in his heart. The question is, "How?" How can we make an eternal impact? How can we be more useful to God? The answer can be found in this week's study of Paul's instructions to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:14-24.

First, Paul instructs Timothy to remind others of their need to be "approved to God" (verse 15). This is not the norm in our society. It's not even the norm in the church today. Too many have forgotten that what others think of you isn't nearly as important as what God thinks. A useful Christian is one who diligently seeks God's approval. When we do this we have no need to be ashamed (verse 15). How do we go about being approved? We do it by avoiding that which is evil and adhering to that which is

Story

good (verses 14-19). Paul reminds us once again, that to be useful we need to avoid fighting "about words" and "irreverent empty speech" (verses 14-15). These things are not "profitable," ruin hearers, produce a "greater measure of ungodliness," and "spread like gangrene" (verses 14, 16-17). Instead, we need to saturate ourselves with the Word of God in order to teach it to others (verse 14).

Next, Paul gives instruction on our need to be special vessels and not ordinary ones (verses 20-21). A cursory reading of a few commentaries will reveal that there are varying ideas about how verse 20 should be interpreted. I won't expound on these various interpretations due to the space limitations of this article. Instead, I encourage you to remember that God, the Master of the house, has the right to designate each of us to particular areas of service in His plan. The key is for each of us to be clean

or purified (verse 21). We need to be "prepared for every good work" (verse 21). Our readiness for service and not the perceived importance of the service is what makes us special and honorable to the Master. When we are ready and available to be used of God to impact others, whether it's by helping a neighbor, praying with a hurting coworker, or leading a hitchhiker to Christ, then we are special, honorable vessels in the eyes of the Master.

Lastly, Paul gives instruction on the need to be wise rather than foolish (verses 22-26). Those who are wise will flee detrimental things and pursue that which is beneficial. In contrast, those who are foolish will pursue that which is evil and therefore flee from that which is good. If we are to be useful to God, we need to be wise and "flee from youthful passions" (verse 22). What are the youthful passions we should avoid? Ones that come immediately to mind are passions such as envy and jealousy, lust, and the desire for wealth and power. Yet

given the content of Paul's instruction to Timothy the focus of "youthful passions" seems to be the need to control one's tongue. This is a favorite means used by young people to draw attention to themselves and to exert their ideas. However, the tongue can stir incredible strife as James points out (1:26, 3:5-6). This is a dichotomous position to the faith, love, peace, pure heart, and gentle instruction Paul identifies as the wise and righteous approach. Those following foolish youthful passions try to win disagreements through volume, confusing of issues, and arguing over minutiae. The wise person avoids useless arguments and instructs with gentleness in the hope of enlightening others rather than beating them in a debate.

If we follow the instruction given by Paul in 2 Timothy 2:14-26 we will be more useful to God and we will live significant lives by investing our lives in others in a God honoring manner.

Story is Minister of Education, First Church, Louisville.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Tell the Truth

Hebrews 8:1-9:28

By Cyndi Grace

Since 9-11 Western culture has been inundated with Islamic thought. Most of us recognize Buddhism, Hinduism, New Age, and Wicca as pagan; we believe we could recognize false doctrine if it entered the church doors. (II Timothy 4:1-5) Imagine my surprise at the lead article of the religion section of the Jackson Clarion Ledger when it quoted Marcus Borg, a noted "Christian" speaker and author of *The Heart of Christianity* as saying, "If I thought that being a Christian meant saying that Christianity was the only way of being in right relationship to God, I couldn't be a Christian." Instead of this statement causing outrage in the Jackson area, people were quoted as saying,

"Marcus Borg was a breath of fresh air to our stale churches." I was blown away knowing these statements came from those who call themselves Christian!

Since we live in an age of religious tolerance perhaps a dose of Christ's superior ministry (Hebrews 8:6) is just what we need. Many of our churches fall into one of two groups: those who are biblically illiterate and easily lead astray or those who over-analyze everything and put God into their own theological box. Neither correctly shows Christ's superior ministry or God's plan for man. God's plan is both: He loves us and provided a way for a restored relationship with Him. Christ is His way of restoration! No other world religion claims a deity who

Grace

actively pursues a relationship with its followers. Ours does! Get your arms around that one because it is huge in light of what Marcus Borg purports. No other road reaches down from heaven with God walking toward His beloved, arms opened in love! We cannot doubt this or we will slip. When asked if it wasn't possible for Jehovah God to have revealed Himself as Allah to the Muslims, Christian apologist, Ravi Zacharias answered, "There is not a Muslim anywhere who would agree Allah was the same as Jehovah yet Christians will deny the one true God for the sake of tolerance!"

Satan uses doubt, the great enemy of truth, to draw us away just as he did with Eve in the garden but we have a powerful weapon to combat this doubt... the very words of Christ who said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Truth

combats doubt! The superiority of Christ stands in the fact that He is alive and interceding for us at the right hand of the one true God... the I AM of all eternity. "No brag, just fact," my daddy would say!

So what can we do in light of tolerance and doubt? Jude, the half brother of Jesus, dealt with similar situations in his congregation and gives us this encouragement:

*But you, dear friends, remember the words foretold by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; they told you, "In the end time there will be scoffers walking according to their own ungodly desires. These people create divisions and are merely natural, not having the Spirit. But you, dear friends, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, expecting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life. Have mercy on some who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; on others have mercy in fear, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh."*

*Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless and with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now, and forever. Amen. (Jude 17-25 HCSB)*

We are not the first generation to deal with apostasy (falling away from the faith) but remembering the Truth of the Word of God and proclaiming that Truth will show the world there really is only one way! A superior way! Jesus says, "I am in them and You are in Me. May they be made completely one, so the world may know You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me. John 17:23 (HCSB) As we become one with Him and with each other, the world will know there is one truth and one way... It's up to us!

Grace is a women's conference speaker and women's ministry director at Highland Church, Vicksburg.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

# Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

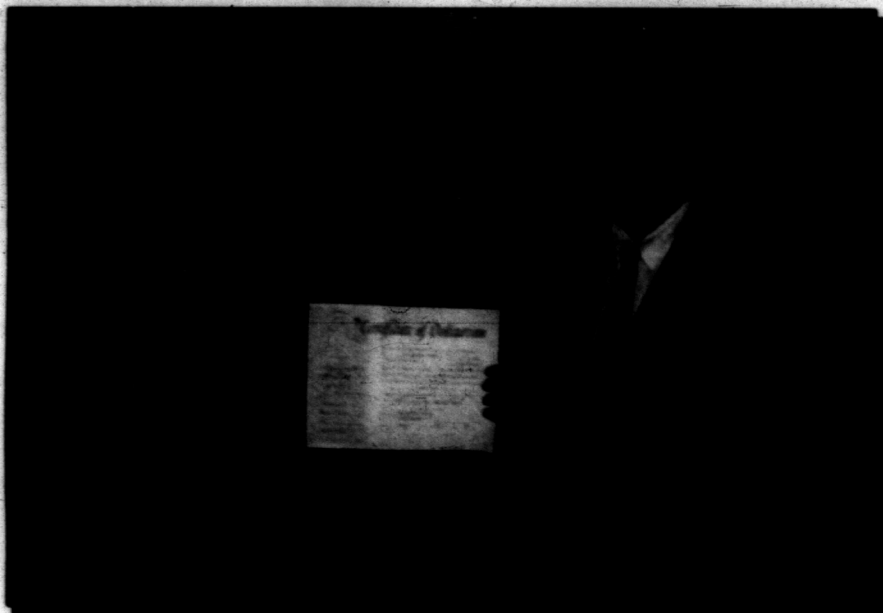
Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



## MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS



1. Clark Ordained, Calvary Church, Vicksburg



2. Mary Margaret, Adair, and James, Utica Church, Utica



3. Student Day, First Church, Tutwiler



4. Deacon Ordination, Escatawpa Church, Jackson County

1. Calvary Church, Vicksburg, ordained S. Lee Clark to the ministry July 23. Shown are pastor Macon Phillips, Clark, and Robert Clark. Clark is serving as minister to students at Church Road Church, Horn Lake.

2. Utica Church, Utica, recently ordained James Adair to the ministry. At the service, Adair and his wife Mary Margaret were commissioned as missionaries with the IMB to Zambia. Shown are Mary Margaret Adair, Adair, and pastor Ben James.

3. First Church, Tutwiler, recently held student day, with a special luncheon in honor of the students. Shown are the participants.

4. Escatawpa Church, Jackson County, ordained George Willis (Ricky) as deacon Sept. 17. Shown are Willis, his wife, interim pastor Bruce Fisher and Sue Fisher.

5. South Louisville Church, Louisville, recognizes its Bible drillers. Children, from left: Jenna Lovorn, Ryan Holdiness, Erik Davis, Zachary Allen, and Nicolas Davis; youth, from left: Christian Sanders, Emily Davis, Elizabeth Ragan, Whitney Smith, and Robbie Faulk.

6. Union Chapel Church at Cagle's Crossing, Tutwiler, recently ordained Jay Burchfield as a deacon. Shown are pastor J.B. Hayes, Jr., Burchfield, Lori Burchfield, Kathryn Burchfield, and Britt Burchfield.

7. Main Street Church, Mendenhall, ordained Leonard Saxon, James McCoy, and Johnny Odom as deacons Sept. 17. Shown are Saxon, McCoy, Odom, and pastor Eric Gervais.

8. Branch Church, Morton, ordained Leroy Foster and Timothy Torrence as deacons Sept. 24. Shown are Foster, Kevin Thompson, and Torrence.

9. Union Church, Seminary, is sponsoring its 2nd annual Foxtrot Fall Festival Oct. 28, 3-6 p.m., featuring Carolyn Norris, Revelations, and Marty Haggard. For information, call (601) 722-3752 or 543-9117.



5. Bible Drillers, South Louisville Church, Louisville



6. Deacon Ordination, Union Chapel Church, Cagle's Crossing



7. Deacon Ordination, Main Street Church, Mendenhall



8. Deacon Ordination, Branch Church, Morton